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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,066	01/31/2002	Robert W. Aukerman	P 1028.11004	2497
30615	7590	01/03/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRDWELL, JANKE & DURANDO, PLC 1100 SW SIXTH AVENUE SUITE 1400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			LIANG, LEONARD S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2853	

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,066

Applicant(s)

AUKERMAN, ROBERT W.

Examiner

Leonard S Liang

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-6,8 and 15-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15,16,18,24,25 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-6,17,19-23,26 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

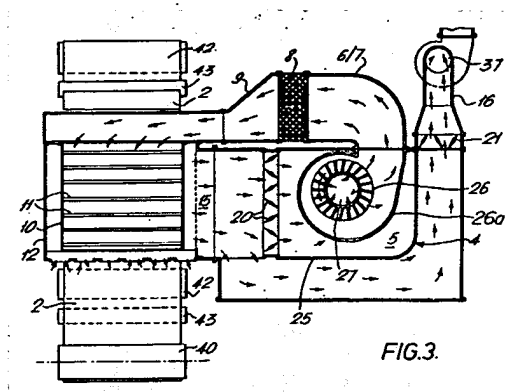
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15-16, 18, 24-25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mallinson (US Pat 4233901).

Mallinson discloses:

- {claim 15} An ink drying system for high speed printing on a traveling sheet of material, the system being coupled to a source of pressurized gas (figure 3, 7; column 1, line 55-column 3, line 48); a first plenum disposed so as to extend over the sheet and define a first drying portion of the first plenum for directing the gas through the first plenum onto the sheet (figure 3, reference 10); an electrically controlled first fluid flow valve for varying the flow rate of the gas through the first plenum (column 3, lines 30-48); a controller for electrically receiving information about the amount of ink to be dried by the first drying portion and electrically controlling the first fluid flow valve in response to the information (abstract; column 1, line 55-column 2, line 49; column 3, lines 30-48)



- {claim 16} the controller is adapted to control the first fluid valve in response to changes in the amount of ink to be dried in different lines of printing (column 1, lines 8-14; column 1, line 55-column 3, line 48)
- {claim 18} A method for high speed printing on a traveling sheet of material (figure 3, 7; column 1, line 55-column 3, line 48); providing a first plenum disposed so as to extend over the sheet and define a first drying portion of the first plenum for directing gas from a pressurized source of gas through the first plenum onto the sheet (figure 3, reference 10); electrically receiving information about the amount of ink to be dried by the first drying portion; and electrically controlling the flow rate of the gas through the first plenum in response to the information (column 1, lines 9-11; column 1, line 55-column 2, line 49; column 3, lines 30-48)
- {claim 24} controlling the first fluid valve in response to changes in the drying energy required of the first drying portion for drying different lines of printing (column 1, line 55-column 3, line 48)

- {claims 25, 27} at least one ink jet printhead for depositing the ink, wherein the first information includes the amount of ink deposited by the at least one ink jet printhead (column 1, lines 5-20; column 1, line 55 – column 3, line 48)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 8 is allowed.

Claims 2, 4-6, 17, 19-23, 26, and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 17 discloses “comprising at least a second plenum disposed so as to extend over the sheet and define a second drying portion of said second plenum for directing gas through said second plenum onto the sheet, a second fluid flow valve for varying the flow rate of the gas through said second plenum, wherein said controller is adapted to receive second information for determining the drying energy required of said second drying portion and to automatically control said second fluid flow valve in response to said second information, for drying ink deposited on the sheet,” which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts.

Claim 19 discloses “providing at least a second plenum disposed so as to extend over the sheet and define a second drying portion of said second plenum for directing the gas through said second plenum onto the sheet, receiving second information for determining the drying energy required of said second drying portion, and automatically controlling the flow rate of the gas through said second plenum in response to said second information for drying ink deposited on the sheet,” which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts.

All other objected claims depend from objected claims 17 and 19.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/08/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant's arguments with regards to Mallinson are not persuasive. The applicant discloses "The automatically controlled valves in Mallinson are provided in the exhaust subsystem (b) and not the drying subsystem (a)...Mallinson fails to comprehend the use of any valves, automatically controlled or not, for controlling the flow of the pressurized gas that is applied to the web for drying the web." This is not true. Mallinson discloses three sets of valves (refs 20, 21, and 22). In figure 7, Mallinson clearly discloses valve 22 as regulating the airflow into fan system 27, which figure 3, clearly discloses as providing the heated air to dry the web. Mallinson teaches that the exhaust subsystem and drying subsystem are integrally connected. Thus, the applicant's assertions are not true.

The applicant's arguments in regards to Briggs and Kolb are persuasive. The rejections for those related claims are now objected to as being allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2853

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S Liang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2148. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Stephen D. Meier
Primary Examiner